



LEGEND

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COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS OF CONEY ISLAND CREEK

A site guide by the Billion Oyster Project in partnership with the NYS DEC.



The creek has changed dramatically over the past 400 years, from a marshy tidal wetlands to an industrialized waterway to the mixed-use landscape of today. **Neighborhood historians, journalists and videographers** keep track of the changes by recording stories, interviews and images.

Although restoration efforts have encouraged wildlife to return to the creek, there are still a few reminders of the creek's former life, including the rusting hulk of the famous Yellow Submarine, a homemade vessel built in the 1960s and later abandoned on the mudflats in front of Calvert Vaux Park.

To learn visit coneyislandhistory.org, email info@coneyislandhistory.org, or call 347 702 8553.



The Clean Water Act, a federal law enacted in 1970, calls for all of the country's waters to be "fishable and swimmable." Fish caught here by a local community of subsistence anglers— striped bass, bluefish, and albacore — are coming from the ocean and considered

The State Department of Health offers advice on safe fish consumption at health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/



After heavy rains and big storms, the edge of the creek sometimes gets buried under a scary layer of floatable trash—plastic bottles, Styrofoam, straws, cigarette lighters, and even syringes.

Neighborhood activists organize beach cleanups several times a year, advocate for cleaner waterways, and push elected officials to plan for the threats that Coney Island residents face from climate change and sea level rise.

The creek is a great outdoor classroom!

Harbor Educators including the Billion Oyster Project, Coastal Classroom, New York State Marine Education Association, NYA, Coney Island Beautification Project, Coney Island History Project, and Partnerships for Parks use it to teach young people about marine life and ecological restoration. Its protected waters also make it a safe place to learn how to row and paddle small boats.



In 2017, **Community Scientists** who had been taking weekly water samples from the creek helped discover and publicize an illegal sewage discharge of more than 200,000 gallons a day coming from a nearby apartment complex. The owners stopped the discharge and paid a \$400,000 fine. Nevertheless the bacteria levels in the creek remain high and more remediation efforts are needed.



For more information on water quality testing in Coney Island Creek email info@nycwatertrail.org.



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- The New York Aquarium
- Coney Island Beautification Project
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- NYSMEA
- City Parks
- Community Board 13
- Friends of Kaiser Park.